



THE LEADER

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March 19, 2004

Operation Iraqi Freedom

On the first anniversary of this operation, see how Warriors of the North have contributed, and continue to do their part

- See Pages 6, 8, and 12-13 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Warriors of the North

Inside:

Weekend weather

| | | |
|----------|-------|---------------|
| Today | 42/28 | Snow |
| Saturday | 35/26 | Partly cloudy |
| Sunday | 32/10 | Mostly cloudy |
| Monday | 39/17 | Partly cloudy |

Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight



Warriors
selected for
senior
master
sergeant
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Wing
members
practice
for
war
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Varsity
basketball
team
claims
second place
Page 15



Why we're there

By Maj. Dave Honchul
United States Central Air
Forces-Forward Public Affairs

"I don't even know why we are over here!"

When I overheard a young airman tell his wife that statement, I couldn't believe what I had heard at first. But after some reflection, I realized that this airman, and the hundreds of others like him at various bases outsided Iraq, has not had the opportunity of seeing first-hand what is happening there in the year since Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

They especially may not identify with the operation's name and comprehend what the single word -- freedom -- truly means for the Iraqi people.

I have had that opportunity. I not only saw it first hand, but more importantly, I saw it through the eyes of Khalid Kishtainy.

In October 2003, I, along with fellow public affairs member Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol, had the opportunity to escort a group of Arabs into Iraq. It was on this trip that I came to meet Khalid Kishtainy, a 72-year-old Iraqi who was among the group.

To look at Khalid is to look at an unassuming figure of a man. Elderly, balding and walking slightly slouched over, he would be the last person you would fig-

ure to be an enemy of the state.

But that is exactly what he was to the Saddam Hussein regime.

You see, Khalid is an Iraqi journalist who has been living in self-imposed exile since 1989 for fear of his life.

A well-known author and columnist in Iraq, he was an adamant critic of the former regime. While in Baghdad in July 1989, friends warned him that his comments in the first chapter -- never mind the other chapters -- of his latest book gave him two death sentences. One of those friends had been jailed simply for repeating Khalid's words in his own newspaper column.

So, with that warning, Khalid Kishtainy left Iraq ... leaving family ... leaving friends ... leaving his beloved homeland ... running toward freedom that no longer existed for him in Iraq.

Even in exile, Saddam's reach was too uncomfortably close for him. I listened to him as he told about a phone call from his sister who had been "apprehended" by Iraqi intelligence officers. She was sitting at a government office, and after briefly speaking to her, an intelligence officer came to the phone.

The officer threatened to rape Khalid's sister and make life

- See **Why**, Page 8

Action Line

Call 747-4522

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.

For questions about current events or rumors, leave a message. Questions will be answered in the order they are received.



Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang

Col. Mark Ramsay, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander, stands with civic leaders from Grand Forks and East Grand Forks while they were on a community relations tour to Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and Lackland AFB, Texas, earlier this month.

Town hall questions, answers

Q: *Is there any way to have the base self-help store open on Saturdays or open with extended hours during the week.*

A: *The self-help store was open on Saturdays, however the patronage did not warrant keeping that schedule.*

People can work with self-help store personnel by calling 747-3400 and they will ensure you get items you need.

Q: *Why do people have such a hard time finding family day care on base?*

A: *We are looking to increase the number of care providers. Family child care providers have a rigid agenda that must be completed prior to obtaining their licenses.*

The process can take anywhere from four to six weeks and is geared toward ensuring a safe and caring environment for children.

To that end, there are limits on the number of children in certain age groups that a single provider can watch.

These restrictions may make it more difficult to find providers for children in younger age groups.

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 19 Consecutive DWI-free days | 94% Air Refueling Effectiveness | 100% Air-Land Effectiveness | 100% OPR/EPR Timeliness | 100% Mishap Reporting Timeliness | 100% Awards, Decoration Timeliness | 92% CDC Completion Rate |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|

Current as of Tuesday's wing stand-up meeting



Courtesy photos, F-15 refueling photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Cover

Pictures of Warriors of the North, along with a refueling shot, highlight the 319th Air Refueling Wing's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom over the past year. This issue of *The Leader* is dedicated to the many warriors who supported this ongoing operation.

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|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
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Eleven Warriors selected for E-8 stripes

Compiled from staff reports

Eleven base master sergeants were selected Wednesday for promotion to senior master sergeant.

They were among 1,566 master sergeants selected Air Force-wide, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials.

The Air Force Central Evaluation Board 04E8, which convened at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Jan. 26 to Feb. 12, con-



sidered 16,516 master sergeants for a 9.48 percent select rate, 3.48 percent above the minimum promotion-rate objective of 6 percent.

The average score for those selected was 671.72, with an average time in grade and time in service of 4.70 and 20.15 years, respectively.

Among the base master sergeants selected were:

❑ **Daniel J. Plets**, 319th Maintenance Group

❑ **Roberto S. Aguilar, Richard Pasamante, Stephen C. Chicosky and Geoffrey Bengston**, 319th Air Refueling Wing

❑ **Michael P. Hagans**, 319th Security Forces Squadron

❑ **John C. Scholl**, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron

❑ **Philip Canterbury and Anthony J. Johnson**, 319th Communications Squadron

❑ **Phillip N. Davis**, 319th Operations Support Squadron

❑ **Glen M. Schafer**, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron

The complete list of new senior master sergeant selectees will be posted to the Air Force Personnel Center's Web page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> on Saturday.

Airman Leadership school announces recent graduates

Compiled from staff reports

The 319th Mission Support Squadron Airman Leadership School announces the graduation of Class 04-B.

Award winners for the class include:

❑ *John Levitow Award:* **Senior Airman Adam M. Grosek**, 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

❑ *Distinguished graduates:* **Senior Airmen Tracy M.**

Stevahn, 319th Operations Support Squadron, and **Jill P. Murray**, 319th Security Forces Squadron

❑ *Academic achievement:* **Senior Airman Tracy M. Stevahn**, 319th OSS

❑ *Leadership Award:* **Senior Airman Michael R. Christiansen**, 319th SFS

Other senior airmen who graduated include:

❑ *319th Logistics Read-*

iness Squadron: **Andre D. Alexander, Jonathan A. Havlik, Nelson Alequin Minguela, and Joseph H. Vassar**

❑ *911th Air Refueling Squadron:* **Seth D.K. Battista**

❑ *319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:* **Leda L. Cary, Mark S. Goldstone, Ron Pasillas, Jonathan F. Seidl, and Joshua E. Stedman**

❑ *319th Communications*

Squadron: **Francius Chery and Lanesha R. Franklin**

❑ *319th Security Forces Squadron:* **Richard J. Clements**

❑ *319th Civil Engineer Squadron:* **Eric M. Falk and Russell J. Mathews**

❑ *319th Maintenance Operations Squadron:* **Waldell T. Graves**

❑ *319th Maintenance Squadron:* **Ryan K. Hesseling and Eric L. Rose**

❑ *319th OSS:* **Jared G. Stutsman**

❑ *934th Maintenance Operations Flight:* **Henry A. Franco**

❑ *342nd Recruiting Squadron:* **Alex P. Pirmann**

❑ *119th Civil Engineer Squadron:* **Adam L.C. Tornell**

The next ALS graduation of Class 04-C is Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Northern Lights Club. For details call Tech. Sgt. James Griffith at 747-3799.

Briefs

Enlisted force development briefing

There is an enlisted force development briefing today at 10:30 a.m. in the base theater. Chief Master Sgt. Michael Gilbert, Air Force enlisted force development functional manager, will be giving the briefing. All E-4 to E-6 enlisted personnel are highly encouraged to attend.

Chief induction

The base chief induction ceremony is tonight in the Northern Lights Club with social hour beginning at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Chief Master Sgt. Michael Gilbert, Air Force development functional manager, will be the guest speaker.

Senior Master Sgts. Lynnette Cox, 319th Medical Group, and Louis Lombardi, 319th Mission Support Group, will be honored at the ceremony for their selection to chief master sergeant.

The dinner menu is sirloin steak and chicken breast, roasted potatoes, chef's vegetables and dinner rolls. Cost is \$14.50 for club members and \$17.50 for non-members. Dress is mess dress or semi-formal.

See any base chief master sergeant on base to sign up or call Chief Master Sgt. Marvin Crawford at 747-3654.

AAFES pursuing movie

DALLAS -- As the movie "The Passion of the Christ" continues to draw strong numbers at the box office of civilian theaters, America's military audience continues to wait for an opportunity to see the film.

According to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, due to the film's commercial success, AAFES has been unable to acquire prints for military audiences. "The civilian market has a lock on the film today," one AAFES official said.

AAFES officials are sure that "The Passion of the Christ" will eventually make it to the military audience. "Because of the film's success it is difficult for AAFES to say when The Passion will be available," officials said. However, they assure service members as soon as the distributor releases prints to AAFES, they will have it in theaters.

Beautiful baby, child contest

The family advocacy new parent support program is observing Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the

Young Child in April with "Beautiful Baby/Child Contest."

The contest takes place 10 a.m. to noon April 6 in Liberty Square where they will be photographing children of all ages. There will be crafts and parenting information available at this event. A photograph display of all the children will be set up 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 15 in the community activities center.

For details call Ms. Karen GreyEyes at 747-7347.

Kindergarten round-up

Kindergarten registration for the 2004-2005 school year is April 6 at Carl Ben Eielson Elementary School. Children are eligible to attend kindergarten next fall if they will be five years old by Aug. 31. All kindergarten age children living on base will attend Carl Ben Eielson School.

Beginning next school year, kindergarten will be a full-day, every day program.

Parents and children are asked to go to Eielson School April 6. Families whose last name begins with A through L should go at 10 a.m. and families whose last name begins with M through Z should go at 1:30 p.m. The sessions last approximately 45 minutes. Parents should bring their kindergarten students with them, however other siblings should remain at home.

Parents must bring their child's birth certificate or passport, Social Security card and immunization records so that dates and numbers can be verified and recorded on the child's permanent school record. For more details on this call 787-5000.

Twining spring auction

The Twining Elementary and Middle School spring auction, sponsored by the Twining Parent-Teacher Organization, is April 2. There will be a free spaghetti feed starting at 6 p.m. in the new gymnasium and a silent auction will follow at 7 p.m., also in the new gym.

Up for auction will be baskets put together by the teachers and students at Twining, including a fishing basket, "Sponge Bob" basket, Italian basket, candle baskets, and more. Also, hand-made quilted items, home-cooked meals, paintings, hand-thrown pottery, and other items will be auctioned.

For details or to make a donation for the auction, call Ms. Cappy Younker at 594-9448.

AMC team assesses sexual assault response program

By Master Sgt. Scott Davis
Public affairs

An Air Mobility Command Sexual Assault Assessment Team visited last week to review wing programs that address sexual assault.

The seven-member team was one of three visiting installations within AMC. All Air Force major commands were tasked by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force to assess what is being done, list special issues and challenges, and identify best practices.

“We’re responding to events that have taken place,” said Col. Tom Alston, team chief and deputy chief of Air Transportation, AMC Logistics Directorate. The events, which include nationally publicized events at the Air Force Academy and Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, have “revealed a greater problem than we thought existed.”

The team was not looking at individual cases during the visit. They were, however, looking at how Air Force members were educated, reporting procedures, response to allegations, and program oversight.

“The standard is zero tolerance,” Colonel Alston said. “Do (victims) feel comfortable going through the channels? Are the programs set up? That’s what we’re trying to find out.”

The briefings and interviews performed by Colonel Alston’s team were non-attribution, and the team’s report will be reviewed by Gen. John Handy, AMC commander, before it’s forwarded to the air staff.

“As we bring all this information together we’ll look for common threads,” Colonel Alston said. “Each of us also gets to make a personal assessment.”

The colonel hopes the teams can help the Air Force reach its goal of zero sexual assaults or incidents of harassment.

ArtWise events begin Monday

Compiled from staff reports

Students from Eielson Elementary School and Twining Elementary and Middle School will be attending the ArtWise Elementary Art Show Monday through Wednesday in the Grand Forks Alerus Center.



The first two days of the show run from 3:30 to 9 p.m. and the last day is from 3:30 to 8 p.m.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Formal opening ceremonies with North Dakota First Lady Mikey L. Hoeven are at 5 p.m. March 23.

A base Honor Guard team will perform a flag presentation ceremony and Staff Sgt. Rose Biggs, 319th Medical Support Squadron, will sing the national anthem.

Center of operations: Deployed Warrior serves in mobility division for war ops

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Working in a heart of air mobility operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, Lt. Col. Bruce Hendrickson oversees a lot of movement, action and effort in the Global War on Terrorism.

From his position as the Air Mobility Division night chief in the Combined Air Operations Center in Southwest Asia, Colonel Hendrickson is in charge of the integration and direct execution of theater and strategic mobility forces to support the joint forces commander's requirements and objectives.

"We have close to 100 people assigned to our division and we operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Colonel Hendrickson, who deployed from Grand Forks Air Force Base. "The Air Mobility Division typically runs more than 140 C-130 sorties a day and more than 30 KC-135 and KC-10 sorties a day -- offloading close to 1.3 million pounds of fuel a day to our receivers."

Colonel Hendrickson said air mobility assets also move more than 1,700 passengers a day.

"We get the beans and bullets to the troops in the field and pass the fuel to the fighters and bombers that support the troops," Colonel Hendrickson said.

The commander for the United States Central Command's Air Forces, Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III, said in a 2003 interview, the CAOC, where Colonel Hendrickson is assigned for deployment, represents the

air component headquarters for the entire area of responsibility, or AOR, that includes 25 countries.

The CAOC, he said, "recognizes the flexibility and diversity of some of the airpower we have available in the fact that we are able to swing assets from Afghanistan, Iraq, and JTF-HOA to support any one of the Joint Task Forces in our region.

"The CAOC gives me that ability to go ahead and exercise centralized command," General Buchanan said. "At the same time, the technology that we have in the CAOC gives me the ability to exercise a centralized command ability to be able to control airpower across the AOR."

General Buchanan said additionally the CAOC offers in its abilities is it provides a link for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, and supporting components, along with the attack assets that U.S. Central Command has in the AOR.

"You can think of it as a communications hub where we will get the feed or tip from an intelligence asset, either a reconnaissance platform or even someone on the ground, and then we can fine tune our targeting process," General Buchanan said. "Then we can direct an asset whether it is to take a picture, provide support, or to put a



Photo by Staff Sgt. Monte Volk
Lt. Col. Bruce Hendrickson

bomb on target."

Currently on a 120-day deployment, Colonel Hendrickson said he has learned a lot more about cargo and passenger movement and C-130 operations than he knew before. He also said he's seen how Air Mobility Command jets and crews work in support of the war effort.

"I am very happy that I am a tanker pilot," Colonel Hendrickson said. "After seeing both sides and controlling them both, the tankers run themselves and do the job everyday."

Colonel Hendrickson said deployment life is getting better every day.

"The mission gets done, and will always get done," Colonel Hendrickson said. "People are dealing with the time away. After a recent trip to Baghdad International Airport, I am very happy to be in the Air

Force. We have deployments, but I met people there who are there for a year. So, being deployed where I am is not that bad."

The lieutenant colonel said he looks forward to his continued support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"I can't wait to do what I can to support the mission," Colonel Hendrickson said. "Flying would be better, but what I do now is just as important."

Warriors deploy for Volk Field exercises

By Airman Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

More than 100 members of Grand Forks Air Force Base, along with people from five other bases, traveled to Volk Field, Wisc., March 5 to 12 to participate in a warfighting training exercise.

Members from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., McGuire AFB, N.J., Niagara Falls ANGB, N.Y. and Robins AFB, Ga., all participated with Grand Forks troops.

“The training allows bases to train without doing the actual setup to have an efficient ability to survive and operate training environment,” said Master Sgt. Richard Pasamante, 319th Air Refueling Wing inspector general’s office. “Everything is already in place at Volk

Field. Members just show up and play.”

All participating members attended classes the first day which ranged from self-aid buddy care to explosive ordinance recovery classes.

After the two days of classes came a two-day field exercise. The exercise lasted from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. with many shops working in two shifts while others worked straight through.

“This was the first time I participated in an ATSO exercise,” said Airman 1st Class John Beltran, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “I expected the exercise to be tough, but it wasn’t as bad as I thought.”

This was also the first time Senior Airman Jill Murray, 319th Security Forces Squadron, had to leave home station for this kind of training.

“I really didn’t know what to expect,”



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Staff Sgt. Danielle Johnson, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron, protects the flightline during ability-to-survive-and-operate training at Volk Field, Wisc., March 12.

Airman Murray said. “I knew we were going to work long hours and that’s about it. In the end, the scenarios were realistic and I enjoyed the learning experience.”

The Volk Field cadre members tried to make the situation as genuine as possible. There were simulated air raids, ground attacks and chemical attacks. Members

were also required to administer self-aid buddy care to the simulated injured.

“The cadre made the casualties and injured people look so realistic,” said Senior Airman Cristina Moreland, 319th ARW manpower office.

“I was pretty impressed with how the six different bases came together, and worked through the different problems that arose during the exercise,” said Airman 1st Class Albert Jolley, 319th AMXS.

Master Sgt. Chris Palmer, also from 319th AMXS, had advice for Airmen who are going to any sort of ATSO training, “Take time to check your gear before you leave home station.

“If this were a real war and you were deploying somewhere, you wouldn’t want to get there and find out that things don’t fit.”

- Why, from Page 2

very hard for the rest of his family if he didn't stop writing about Iraq and Saddam's regime.

Even though he agreed, the Iraqi government continued to cause problems for his family. One nephew was suddenly dismissed from his job and couldn't get work elsewhere, simply because he was related to Khalid. Freedom continued to fade for him.

That is until March 2003. To say Khalid was happy to see the regime fall is an understatement. And now, 14-plus years after fleeing Baghdad, Khalid was making a journey he had resigned himself to believing would never happen -- a return to Iraq.

As our C-130 touched down in Basrah, the first stop of our five-day trip, one could not help but notice the grin growing on Khalid's face. As he rose from his seat, he seemed to stand a little straighter. I think at that moment, he could have run a marathon if he had to. He looked just like a child who knows a present is coming and can't wait to open it.

The rest of the group, journalists representing various Arab publications, felt it too. They were trying to make sure they got off the plane first so that they could capture a prized moment -- that first magical step of Khalid on Iraqi soil. Cameras snapped and whirled as he took that step, standing there with one foot still on the plane and one on the ground.

I watched ... trying to put myself in his place ... trying to figure out what



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Khalid Kishtainy, Iraqi novelist and columnist for the Asharq Al-Awsat Arabic newspaper in London, steps off a C-130 on to the flightline at Baghdad International Airport in October 2003. It was his first time back in his native city and country in more than 14 years.

could possibly be going through his mind at that moment as he stood there looking out over the countryside.

And then he surprised me. After all the photos ... all the handshakes ... all the congratulations, he stopped and looked around -- not at his beloved nation, but at me as the senior military escort. He came to me, grabbed my hand firmly, and said one simple statement: "Thanks to America, I can return to my homeland."

Freedom ... something Americans take for granted. Now, the coalition has helped a nation's people on its way toward learning what it really is. And for Khalid, and the thousands of other Iraqis around the world like him, they can now dare to dream of having the opportunity -- the freedom -- to go home once more.

That's why we're there.

Is Iraq better off today?

Iraqi Freedom veterans share their vision from

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Warriors of the North who have been to Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom say it was an eye-opening experience for them. Many also say the effort to liberate nearly 26 million Iraqis from a dictator was worth the effort.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wayne Sumpter, 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron commander, deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq, from April to June 2003 to set up a medical clinic. He said although some improvements have not happened in Iraq as fast as some would like, he thinks the safety, freedom, and living standards have improved greatly through this operation.

"It's going to take time to change what was in place for the past 25-plus years," Colonel Sumpter said. "Delivering medical care in that environment, half way around the world, will always be challenging. However, as long as our troops are there, they will continue to have superb care available, either locally or via aerovac to our tertiary medical centers in Germany and the United States."

Tech. Sgt. Doug Starkweather, 319th Operations Support Squadron airfield manage-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

An Iraqi janitorial worker at the Baghdad International Airport main terminal gives a "thumbs down" to Saddam Hussein while he holds a piece of old Iraqi dinar with Hussein's image on it.

ment flight, deployed to Baghdad International Airport as the deputy chief of airfield management in the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron from April to July 2003. His efforts to help reestablish BIAP as a working airport for military operations involved working with Iraqis. He said as Iraq's future goes, all you can do is hope for the best.

"Although there are extremist groups who would rather live under a dictator, for the most part, the Iraqi people want to live and prosper in peace just like anyone else," Sergeant Starkweather said. "I think we are going to be there for a while helping the new government get on its feet."

Staff Sgt. Chad Maniekee, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander support staff, deployed to Baghdad from September 2003 to January as an information manager with the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team. Sergeant Maniekee, who worked inside the "Green Zone" in downtown Baghdad, said in travels with his team to places like Mosul, Kirkuk and Balad, Iraqis were good people.

Sergeant Maniekee said he noticed more elation from these normally quiet people when the capture of Saddam Hussein took place in December.

"All the Iraqis we talked to were happy that it happened," Sergeant Maniekee said. "Their future is up to them and it will take a while longer. It seems to be working out better since Saddam is captured."

Operation Iraqi Freedom: In all parts of liberated Iraq, Warriors of the North played crucial roles in success of operations

Going into Iraq: ‘I had to remind myself every few days where I was’

Doctor recalls his first days at Tallil Air Base

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Rundown and dilapidated buildings, extremely hot weather, and leishmaniasis-carrying sandflies were among the many adversities that faced the warriors who turned Tallil Air Base, Iraq, into an operational foothold for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wayne Sumpter, 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron commander, landed at Tallil on April 6, 2003, less than a month after the start of OIF, he said he never would have imagined he would end up there. On arrival, the base was in covert, blacked-out operations and the visibility of war was apparent throughout the night.

“Seeing the base in the daylight on April 7 was a real eye-opener,” Colonel Sumpter said. “The buildings were all rundown and dilapidated. The hangars were essentially twisted metal frames without walls after sustaining damage in the first Gulf War.”

Colonel Sumpter went to Tallil from April through July 2003 as part of a team to set up a 10-bed expeditionary medical support, or EMEDS, field hospital with surgical, primary care, preventive medicine, and dental capability for 2,000 to 3,000 people. He served as the deputy com-



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Wayne Sumpter, 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron commander, stands in front of a UH-60 helicopter after a mission from Tallil Air Base, Iraq, in May 2003.

mander, chief of aerospace medicine, and aeromedical-dental flight commander with the 407th Expeditionary Medical Squadron.

“We actually had 30 beds due to a population served of approximately 28,000 personnel,” Colonel Sumpter said. “We also had two Army UH-60 air ambulances attached to our expeditionary medical squadron for use in medical evacuation. They were used several times a day for wounded, MVA injuries, and other patient transfers.

Colonel Sumpter said there was dust everywhere and in everything.

“It was as fine as talcum powder.”

The colonel also said he'd not deployed to a true “bare base” before, and Tallil was definitely a bare base.

“Besides the sand flies with leishmaniasis, the threats were GI illness, wild dogs, and a concern about possible chemical attack,” Colonel Sumpter said. “We had to keep our chemical protective gear nearby that first month. It seemed I had to remind myself every few days where I was. It was surreal to think of being in Iraq.”

“For the first month, we ate

MREs, slept in the back of our clinic tent, and used a makeshift slit-trench latrine.

“We were able to get a field shower every two to three days by dousing ourselves with water using a canteen cup,” Colonel Sumpter said. “Laundry was done once a week using a washbucket.”

Getting the mission done and seeing the people seeking medical treatment became a daily occurrence.

“A significant medical challenge in this region is the disease leishmaniasis, spread by the sandfly,” Colonel Sumpter said. “The sandfly population exploded after Saddam drained the marshes, causing the ground to become very dry and cracked – a perfect harbor for the sandflies.”

There are two forms of leishmaniasis, Colonel Sumpter said, a skin form and a visceral (internal organ) form.

“The skin form can spread internally, which is up to 50 percent fatal,” Colonel Sumpter said. “Both require 28 days of intravenous heavy metal treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

“This emphasizes the importance of personal protective equipment, as well as the benefit of air-conditioned tents,” Colonel Sumpter said.

The other major challenge was the heat, Colonel Sumpter said. Temperatures are in the 120 degree Fahrenheit range this time of year and in the summer go into the 130s.

“There is a large Army population in the area without air conditioned tents who work throughout the day,”

Colonel Sumpter said. “The heat caused a number of cases of heat illness, including a few of heatstroke.”

The colonel said from the base you can see the Ziggurat of Ur, a pyramid-shaped ancient temple.

“Adjacent to that was the city of Ur, the birthplace and home of Abraham who is a patriarch for Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religions,” Colonel Sumpter said.

“The current landscape is quite a contrast to the Garden of Eden, which is thought to have been in this region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers,” Colonel Sumpter said. “My thought was that it really exemplified how badly Adam and Eve messed up.”

Colonel Sumpter said being there was also an opportunity to learn to appreciate the simpler things – shelter from dust storms, air conditioning, cool water, home-cooked meals and green grass.

“Just taking a trip down to Kuwait and having ice cream and a soda at the dining hall there was a treat,” Colonel Sumpter said.

But to accomplish the mission, Colonel Sumpter said the best part was having a great team of people come together, build up a field hospital, and provide “superb full-spectrum medical care” to more than 100 patients per day.

“Looking back, it was probably a once-in-a-career, and lifetime, experience,” Colonel Sumpter said.

“I know without a doubt that there are many people there whose lives are better for what we have done.”

Air operations at Baghdad International Airport Grand Forks AFB member worked vital role in getting hub restarted

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Tech. Sgt. Doug Starkweather wasn't sure what he was in for when he left here for his deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2003. But he knew it was about freedom.

“The war, and the continued efforts in Iraq, are all about freedom,” Sergeant Starkweather said. “We enjoy so much freedom in this country that we could never imagine what it would be like to live in fear. The people of Iraq are free now, some of them, for the first time in their lives. I feel like I was a part of that. That my efforts made a difference, and that's a sense of accomplishment that I will get to carry with me for the rest of my life.”

Sergeant Starkweather was in Iraq from April 17 to July 2, 2003. He went there to serve as the deputy chief of airfield management with the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron at Baghdad International Airport.

Getting to Baghdad

When he got there, the airport was recently renamed from Saddam International Airport and he was there with two other people, Master Sgt. Tom Sherer from Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and Tech. Sgt. Randall Simonson from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.

“Sergeant Sherer, who is also my functional manager at AMC, picked the team and deployed as the airfield manager,” Sergeant Starkweather said. “His specialty was management and networking. If there was something we needed, he found a way to get it for us.”

Sergeant Simonson was the chief of airfield management operations and his specialty was computers.

“Everything we did to establish an airfield, Randall put it down on paper,” Sergeant Starkweather said. “All our procedures, instructions, maps and other things, he organized not only for our

use, but for those who would follow.

“My specialty was airfield operations,” the technical sergeant said. **Reopening the airfield**

Baghdad International has two runways, Sergeant Starkweather said. It has a 13,000-foot civilian runway and an 8,000-foot military runway.

“Coalition forces were kind enough to put both runways out of commission with some well-placed ordnance,” Sergeant Starkweather said. “But you have to give those guys credit, they completely knocked out both runways without completely destroying them by placing their bombs in strategic locations.”

Coalition forces repaired it by June 1. The challenge at this point was to get the runways back on the operational scale for military operations. Sergeant Starkweather said they were still able to land aircraft there even without the runways.

“We were actually landing aircraft on a taxiway at the edge of a parking ramp,” he said. “My job was to make the temporary runway safe for operations and get the other two runways up and running. Although we all had titles, nobody was responsible for any one job. Everything we did, we did together and each person's expertise complemented the efforts of the team. If one person was challenged, we were all challenged and together we opened an airfield. It's an experience I'll never forget.”

Challenges at every turn

Sergeant Starkweather said his job was a challenge every step of the way – from just getting to Baghdad to finally opening the second runway.

“We initially arrived at a forward base in Saudi Arabia,” Sergeant Starkweather said. “At the time, the bases in Saudi were all transitioning. Getting a ride to Baghdad turned out to be our first hurdle.

“We finally got to Baghdad about a week after the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division and the Marines secured the



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Doug Starkweather, 319th Operations Support Squadron, stands next to an airport vehicle that was used when forces initially arrived at Baghdad International Airport when he arrived in Iraq in April 2003.

airfield, but there was still a lot of fighting going on around us,” Sergeant Starkweather said.

They landed at night on a completely dark airfield, he said.

“You could see tracer fire going up and the occasional distant explosion,” he said. “There were no tents so we found a place to live in the air traffic control building. Some of the windows had been blown out from the concussion of bombs being dropped on the airfield, but other than that, there was no real damage to the building.”

Then, over the course of the next few weeks, they began their work of reestablishing BIAP into a working airfield for OIF.

“The main runway only had two bomb craters in it and the Iraqis had placed big cement planters and piles of dirt on the runway to keep us from using it,” Sergeant Starkweather said.

“The rapid runway repair guys were able to fix one of the craters right away which gave us 8,000 feet of usable runway. It was very important that we got that runway up and operational so that humanitarian aid could start flowing into the country. It took about two weeks to clear all the debris.

“It was a big stepping stone and our first real accomplishment was when we saw that Red Cross plane land,” he continued. “The other runway would be more of a challenge. It had about eight craters, the largest being 120 feet across and 45 feet deep. That runway opened for business the day we left.”

Sergeant Starkweather and his team spent 89 days in Baghdad. He said it was about two months before Iraqis were allowed to come back on the airfield, and even then they were closely screened and watched.

A relationship eventually grew with those Iraqis. Sergeant Starkweather and his teammates heard many horror stories about the Saddam Hussein regime. That, along with everything else he learned on that deployment, brought home the realization to Sergeant Starkweather why he was there – to help provide freedom.

“What you don't see in the news are the countless numbers of people who are alive today and very grateful that we freed them from the Saddam regime,” he said.

“I guess you have to have been there to realize, on a day-to-day basis, that what we did there and what we continue to do, is the right thing to do.”

More Warriors in the fight

(Left) Senior Airman Cy Eckhardt, KC-135R boom operator, looks over flight procedures during a night refueling flight over Iraq in September 2003. (Right) Col. Cathy Clothier, 319th Operations Group commander, walks down the flightline at Base Z on March 19, 2003, the first day of the air war for Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Far right) Deployed KC-135R Stratotanker aircrews receive a flight briefing on March 19, 2003, for refueling aircraft supporting the air war for OIF from Base Z. All of these people are few of the many Warriors who've made OIF a success.



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Base theater



Today, 7 p.m.
Barbershop 2; Back in Business (PG-13)

This is the sequel to the original Barbershop stars Ice Cube as Calvin, the proprietor of an independent neighborhood barbershop in South Chicago with a clientele as outspoken as its barbers (who include Cedric the Entertainer).

Saturday, 7 p.m.
You Got Served (PG-13)

You Got Served follows friends David (Omarion) and Elgin (Marques Houston), who are the best dancing duo in town. But their reputations and friendship end up on the line when they face serious competition and are challenged in the biggest competition of the year

March 26, 7 p.m.
Miracle (PG)

March 27, 7 p.m.
Catch That Kid (PG)

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

Base chapel



CATHOLIC:
Soup and Stations of the Cross: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sunflower Chapel
Mass: 9 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel
Weekday Mass: 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Sunflower Chapel
Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel
CCD: 10:45 a.m. Sunday, at Twining Elementary and Middle School. For details call Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

PROTESTANT:
Traditional Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel
Contemporary Worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, at Prairie Rose Chapel
Sunday School: 9 a.m. at Eielson Elementary School
PYOC: 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sunday, at the youth center
PWOC Bible Study: 7 p.m. Monday, in the Prairie Rose Chapel conference room
Men of the Chapel Bible Study: Noon Monday, in the Prairie Rose Chapel conference room
Young Adults: 6 p.m. Friday, at Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Swain's home. For details call 747-6468.

JEWISH:
Call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.
RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:
Call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540 for details.
MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:
Call 747-5673 for details.

Warriors fall in city championship 106-79

Compiled from staff reports

The Grand Forks Air Force Base Warriors men's varsity basketball team Grand Forks City League Tournament Championship run came to a screeching halt as the number one seed, Drummer's Diesel showed why they were undefeated as they drummed the Warriors 106-79.

"This was one of those games where we had to play a perfect game to be competitive and obviously we didn't," said Coach D.J. Lemelle.

As the game went on, the harder the Warriors played, the worse their overall play got said Lemelle.

The Warriors did manage to take an early 7-0 lead, however, defensive specialist guard George Fowlkes picked up two quick fouls that changed the whole defensive strategy. "Our strategy was to provide perimeter pressure on their point guard," said Lemelle. "Fowlkes played exceptional defense on their point guard, however sometimes aggressive defense will be penalized and this time it was," he said.

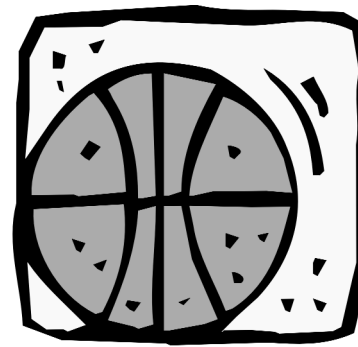
Power forward Soultz Dukes suffered an ankle injury in the first half that tremendously weakened the Warriors post play, Coach Lemelle said. However, 6-foot, 11-inch power forward Hunter Reinke torched the Warriors for 44 points, connecting on nine of 13 from three-point range.

"We did not have an answer for this guy," Coach Lemelle said. "He torched us from outside and he posted us up inside. He really took it to us."

"We have played against some tall, aggressive post players this year," the coach said, "by far, Reinke is the best overall post player we have played this year. We were prepared, but we just could not get any momentum."

"It is very disheartening to lose in the championship game," Coach Gene Bowens said.

However, on the upside, Coach Bowens said this loss doesn't dampen their season. He said they have done



things this year that few thought they would accomplish.

"Despite, the outcome, our Warriors have earned the respect from their downtown counterparts," Coach Bowens said. "These troops played with heart, discipline and a never quit mentality. For being undersized in every game played thus far this season, this team has learned how to use its size disadvantage to its advantage."

"This is why this team is so exciting to watch," Coach Bowens said. "They never give up. This won't be the last championship game they play in."

The Warriors fell to 19-18 overall on the season with the loss. They will participate in the Grand AM Games, held in Grand Forks, March 26 to 28.

"The Warriors would like to thank their supervisors, commanders, fans, 319th Services Squadron, the 319th Logistic Readiness Squadron, 319th Operations Support Squadron, and 319th Security Forces Squadron for help-

Wellness Tips

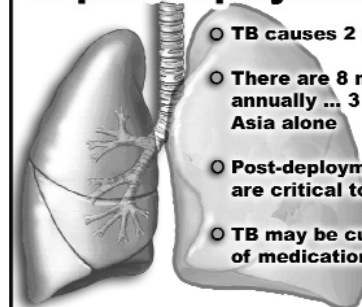
Hayfever Facts

- ▶ In 2000, 18.8 million people in the United States were diagnosed with hayfever
- ▶ Hayfever is caused by an oversensitive immune system reacting to substances that are generally harmless
- ▶ Symptoms include cough, headache, runny nose, sore throat, and watery eyes
- ▶ Treatment includes antihistamines, nasal steroids, decongestants, and -- when possible -- remain indoors in an air-conditioned atmosphere
- ▶ To fight indoor allergens, clean frequently, vacuum, wash bed linens, clean air ducts, and regularly change air filters.

SOURCE: AMC Command Surgeon Office

InfoGraphic by TSgt. Mark Diamond

Why is Tuberculosis addressed in post-deployment questionnaire?



- TB causes 2 million deaths annually
- There are 8 million new cases of TB annually ... 3 million in Southeast Asia alone
- Post-deployment health assessments are critical to identify at-risk deployers
- TB may be cured with six to 12 months of medication

SOURCE: AMC Command Surgeon Office

InfoGraphic by TSgt. Mark Diamond

Old-Pro Champs

Congratulations to the 319th Operations Support Squadron for winning the Old-Pro basketball championship March 10 with a 56-40 win over the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Team members include: Matt Wireman, Robert Dague, Mark Thomas, Scott Phipps, Mark Wright, Reid Woodward, Phillip Davis, Clinton Lewis, and Jason Gibbens.

319th OSS ended the season with a 12-3 record. Team members thank all other teams who participated in the tourney.

Sport shorts

BASE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL CLOSURE: Due to the warmer temperatures and lack of sufficient snow cover on many areas of the base snowmobile trail system, the snowmobile trail is closed until further notice. For details call Master Sgt. Thomas Sternemann at 747-3493.

SPRING THING AT THE HAWC: March is National Nutrition Month. Staff Sgt. Shaleika Anderson, at the health and wellness center will conduct a nutrition education and information session at 11:30 a.m. today, to encourage eating smart and staying healthy. Participants will be able to sample food. For details call Staff Sgt. Shaleika Anderson at 747-5546.

WOMENS SELF DEFENSE CLASS: Learn how to protect yourself and fight back. Mr. Michael Coachmen will be instructing girls and women ages 10 and older the basics of self defense. Classes will be April 26 and 29 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the sports and fitness center. For details call the sports and fitness center at 747-3384.

THREE-ON-THREE BASKETBALL: Every Saturday, three-on-three basketball games. Youth ages 9 to 18 pick their own teams of three and participate each Saturday. The program is divided into two sessions: September to October, and November and December, with a total game win champion being crowned for each session. Games begin at 7 p.m. for ages 9 to 12 and at 9 p.m. for ages 13 to 18. Youth must sign up 15 minutes prior to game time.

ROCK CLIMBING CLASSES: Rock climbing wall classes are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the sports and fitness center. Please sign up at the front desk. For details call 747-3384.

ICE FISHING: Outdoor recreation is sponsoring an ice fishing trip March 27 departing from outdoor recreation at 7 a.m. and returning later that day. The cost is \$10 per person which includes transportation, ice shanty with heater, use of auger, bait, and equipment if needed. Price does not include fishing license. For details call 747-3688.

Intramural standings

Soccer

| <u>Team</u> | <u>Standing</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|
| CES-A | 3-0 |
| CES-B | 3-1 |
| AMXS | 2-1 |
| OSS | 2-2 |
| SVS | 1-2 |
| MXS | 1-2 |
| LRS | 0-4 |



Standings as of Wednesday

| <u>Team</u> | <u>Standing</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|
| CS-B | 2-1 |
| SFS-A | 3-0 |
| MOS | 3-0 |
| SFS-B | 1-1 |
| AMXS | 1-2 |
| MSS | 0-3 |
| CS-A | 1-2 |
| MDS | 0-1 |
| SVS | 0-1 |
| LRS | 1-1 |

DARTS

Standings as of Wednesday

Volleyball

| <u>Team</u> | <u>Standings</u> |
|-------------|------------------|
| MOS | 3-1 |
| SVS/MSS | 1-3 |
| OSS | 1-3 |
| CS | 3-0 |
| AMXS | 1-3 |
| MDG | 0-4 |
| CES | 5-0 |
| LRS | 3-1 |
| MXS | 1-3 |



Community

Today

GOLF COURSE BREAKFAST: The Plainsview Golf Course snack bar offers steak and eggs for breakfast today from 7 to 11 a.m. for \$5.75.

GOLF COURSE LUNCH: The Plainsview Golf Course offers chicken fried steak for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers a salmon fillet special today from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Members receive a \$3 discount.

PASTA BAR: The Northern Lights Club offers a “pasta bar” along with the day’s hot entree from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday

NBA LIVE TOURNAMENT: Outdoor recreation is sponsoring a NBA Live 2004 tournament at the Warrior Airmen Recreation Center from noon to 4 p.m. There is \$5 entry fee per person and you must be 17 to enter the tournament. There is a 32-person limit. First and second place win a two-night stay at the Canad Inn in Winnipeg, includes Sunday brunch. For official rules and to sign up call outdoor recreation at 747-3688.

FRAMING CLASS: The skills development center will be having a framing class from 10 am to 5 pm. Cost is \$20 plus supplies. Stop by the SDC and pre-register fo the class.

CLUB KARAOKE: The Northern Lights Club offers karaoke from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

CLUB DANCING: The Northern Lights club offers dancing at the club from 10 pm. to 3 a.m. Enjoy “club mix” with DJ “C”.

Sunday

SUNDAY BRUNCH: The Northern Lights Club offers Sunday brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday

PARENT, TOT PLAYGROUP: Parent-tot playgroup is held at Liberty Square from 10 a.m. to noon for ages 2 to 5.

Wednesday

DOLLAR DAY LUNCH: The Northern Lights club offers \$1 lunch day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m for members only.

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers an “all you can eat” taco bar from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$6 and members receive a \$3 discount.

LIBRARY STORYTIME: The base library holds storytime at 10 a.m. every week. Each week is themed. There is reading, singing, and do an activity in relation to the theme. This weeks theme is Dr. Suess “Horton Hatches the Egg”.

For details call the library at 747-3046.

Thursday

MOTORCYCLE AND WORLD OF WHEELS SHOW: Outdoor recreations is sponsoring a trip to the International World of Wheels show March 27 at the Minneapolis Convention Center departing at 6 a.m. The cost is \$25 per person which includes transportation to and from the base only. The convention show entry fee is \$12 per adult.

Sign up at outdoor recreation by close of business or call outdoor recreation at 747-3688.

FOOSBALL: There is a free foosball tournament at the youth center for ages 9 to 12 at 5:30 p.m. and 13-18 at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming

STATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR: The Annual Boys and Girls Clubs of America State Youth of the Year competition is March 27 at Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Ms. Jessica Weber will be representing Grand Forks Air Force Base in this competition.

The winner will compete for regional honors. Everyone is encouraged to support Grand Forks AFB and Ms. Weber in the competition.

MASSAGE THERAPIST AVAILABLE: Massage therapy service is now located at the fitness center in the treatment room.

Julie Erickson offers Swedish, deep tissue, sports, and prenatal massage.

Polarity therapy, reflexology, lomi-lomi hawaiian, and raindrop techniques are available for customers.

For details and to make an appointment, call 747-6104/6201.

COSTUME ACTORS NEEDED: Three volunteers are needed to wear animal costumes (identities will be concealed) during the Singin’ Safari Band family concert at the community activities center April 3.

For details call Ms. Pam Solga at 747-3268.

JAZZ MUSIC, DINNER: The United States Air Force Band, *Airmen of Note*, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force, will perform in the Northern Lights Club March 27 with a free concert at 7:30 p.m.

Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.50 for club members and \$11.50 for non-members.

To sign up for the dinner, call the Club at 747-3392 or go online to <http://www.gf-services.com>.

There is limited seating for the dinner portion.

JAZZ DOWNTOWN: The United States Air Force Band, *Airmen of Note*, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force, will perform a free concert at the Red River High School Gymnasium March 28 at 2 p.m.

To obtain tickets, pick them up at Popplers Music on Gateway Drive, or call RRHS at 746-2402, Ext. 141.

AADD’S FIRST QUARTER BAKE SALE: Airmen Against Drunk Driving is holding it’s first bake sale of the quarter March 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Base Exchange.

If people are unable to join the AADD team, but want to support AADD, they can chip in and donate bake goods for the sale. Proceeds benefit the AADD program.

For details call 740-2273.

Spouse club news

Enlisted Spouses Club

GENERAL MEETING: The Enlisted Spouses Club holds their general meeting Monday at 7 p.m. in the community activities center. Upcoming ESC events will be discussed. For details call Ms. Tracy Carter at 747-4518 or 594-6633.

BOARD NOMINATIONS: The Enlisted Spouses Club will be putting in board nominations during their general meeting Monday at 7 p.m. in the community activities center. Positions for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are among the positions for nominations.

This is considered a crucial event for ESC members to attend. For a list of positions available and their job descriptions call the CAC at 747-6104 or Ms. Tracy Carter at 747-4518 or 594-6633.

Officers’ Spouses Club

SANDY TURNER ANGEL AWARDS: The Officer Spouses’ Club is accepting nomination applications recognizing individuals with outstanding volunteerism during the last year. Individuals eligible include active duty military, military family members, military retirees, federal civilians, community civilians, and all OSC members (excluding executive board members and advisors).

The nomination deadline is April 5. Award winners will be recognized at the OSC Scholarship Banquet on May 4. Application forms can be picked up at several locations on base or via e-mail. Call Carol Gaddis at 594-3802 or e-mail ccgarddis@gra.midco.net for details.

BOWLING CLUB: Join the Officers’ Spouses Club’s bowling club every Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. at the base bowling center.

For details call Nancy Hendrickson at 594-6286 or Denise Weber at 594-8018.

Air Force One Source a one-stop help area for military members, families

Real help – anytime, anywhere – provided in partnership with family support center and other agencies is what the new Air Force One Source offers, officials say. No question is too small and no issue is too big, said

Master Sgt. Barb Zavala, FSC superintendent. Whether people are preparing for a new baby, dealing with relationship issues, preparing for deployment and reunion, getting out of debt, or buying their first car, Air Force One Source can help.

“They provide a customized response, whatever your needs are,” Sergeant Zavala said. “There is no cost to you and your privacy is respected. And because you never know when you’ll need them, they are there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.”

Phones are answered live by qualified staff. They offer simultaneous translation into 140-plus languages.

There is also an interactive Website which includes: plan a call; e-mail a consultant; live events; monitored bulletin boards; and topical newsletters.

To use the online resources, go to www.airforceone-source.com, type in the user ID, “airforce” and the password “ready.”

The toll-free number is 1-800-707-5784. For details, call the FSC at 747-3241.